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THE
MIRACULOUS
CHILD:
OR,
WONDERFULL
NEWS
FROM
MANCHESTER.

A most true and certain Account, how one *Charles Bennet*, a Child but Three Years old (on the 22nd. of June, 1679,) doth speake Latine, Greek, and Hebrew, though never taught those Languages; and answers all Questions relating to the Bible, &c. in a wonderfull manner.

And is now brought up to be presented to the King.

Laving all along on his Journeys been visited at Coventry, and other Places, by most of the Ministers and other Learned Men; to whom he gives such satisfaction, that they depart with Wonder and Amazement.

any question the Certainty of this Relation, let them repair to Mr. Nightingale's, at the Bear Inn, in West Smithfield, (where this Child now Resides) and they may be abundantly satisfied.

London, Printed for F. L. 1679.

REPRINTED BY A. SWINDELLS, MANCHESTER. Nov^r 2/820

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Manchester, November 17th. 1820.

Gentle Reader,

After three years' diligent search, it was with great pleasure (though at great cost) I procured the Tract, of which is annexed a verbatim copy. To remunerate myself, and accommodate those who, at a small expence, would wish a Miraculous Child, were my motives for reprinting it.

I remain,

Gentle Reader,

Your obedient Servant,

Will: Gates

his friend Wm Bateman

**Only Forty Copies printed for Sale,
and Ten to give away.**

THE
Wonderfull Child :
OR
Strange News
FROM
MANCHESTER.

THE Holy Scripture witnesseth, that God doth often reveal his strength, and shew the glorious effects of his power, out of the mouths of Babes and sucklings. What we are here to relate, is certainly as rare and signal a dispensation of his providence, as most that have appeared in our Age. And this is concerning a Child, the Discourse and wonder of all Lancashire, Warwickshire, and parts adjacent: For that having never been taught any but his mother Tongue; and being in truth of an age too young and incapable, to all humane apprehension, of being taught or instructed in any thing of Learning, being but three years of Age; and when he began first, not so much: he does yet freely and frequently speak Latine, Greek, and Hebrew besides English, which he was bred unto: and answers Questions demanded of him, in any of those Languages.

The name of this strange Child is *Charles Bennet*, the son of one *Thomas Bennet*, an honest, poor, industrious man in the town of Manchester, and was born on the 22. day of June, in the year of our Lord 1676: so that two days before this last Midsummer-day,

day, he was compleatly three years of age, and no more ; as not only by its Parents' Affirmation, but likewise that of the Church-book, and the Testimony of many of their Neighbours, does most certainly appear.

As for the constitution and features of this Child, its countenance is very solid and composed ; and considering its tender age (which usually is brisk and full of play) he seems somewhat inclined to Melancholy, yet hath a kind of Majestical Gravity even already appearing in his looks ; which is frequently attended with a modest smile : and when he hears people fall into excessive praises of, or wondering extremely at him, does commonly blush and reprove them ; desiring them to praise that God, and admire his power and goodness, who is the sole bestower of every good and perfect Gift and work. 'Tis commonly reported, that his mother when big with him, had several very strange dreams, which did denote what a *prodigious* or *famous* Child she should bring into the World. But I would not relate any thing here, that is uncertain, or doubtfully told, but what is of approved Truth.

He had the use of his Tongue, and could prattle *English*, when he was but a year and a quarter old : but as for *Latine*, or any other Language, he was never taught any thing of that kind : For his Father's Circumstances were far from being such as to be at that charge and expence. When he began first of all to speak other Tongues, cannot be precisely set down ; for the parents do say, That they have often heard him speak words they could not understand ; but believed it to be only a Childish Gibberish. But about a quarter of a year ago, there was publick notice

tice taken of him ; For one of his Relations being reading a Chapter, the Child observed that they read wrong ; and withal told them what was the right : and afterwards was heard by several that understood it to speak words of Latine, at which the Hearers were not a little surprized, both because of his Age and of his Education ; And upon a second demand in Latine, receiving a sensible and plain answer, they were more concerned ; and when on further tryal, he was found not only to understand Latine, but likewise Greek and Hebrew too, they were wholly astonished ; and acquainting others with this rarity, the report thereof soon spread throughout all the Country ; and abundance of Ministers, Physicians, and Gentlemen that are Scholars, come out of Curiosity to see and hear him ; which when they have done, they all confess that they never saw, heard of, or read the like.

'Tis said, one of the first things when he came to discourse in Latine, was, that he must go to the King, for he had something to say to him : what it is he will not, 'tis said, discover to any other : but desired he might be carried up to London ; which not being much taken notice of at first, he often repeated the same both in Latine, Greek and English, to several that came to visit him ; who at last agreed, that it was very fit he should come up ; and accordingly he is now on his Journey towards London ; but cannot travel but a very little way in a day, because of the multitude that crowd to see him, and persons of Quality sending for him to their houses, out of the Road. He was lately at Coventry, where all the Magistrates came to see him, and heard him talk in the Languages aforesaid to several Ministers ; whom he very freely converses with,

with, and answers all questions out of the Bible, in a wonderful manner.

There are some people that would seem very wise, that imagine this Child is possest, and that some evil Spirit answers for it, in this variety of Languages: but I can by no means yield to this their uncharitable opinion; aswell, because possessions are always attended with some kind of pain, or disorder of the body, and oft-time distorting the Countenance; of all which there is not in this Case the least sign: and further, because whatever this Child speaks, tends to promote piety and vertue, and discourage all kinds of wickedness. For his chief discourse is to admonish men to repent, and amend their lives; now 'tis not likely that an evil Spirit should speak so much against their own interest: We do therefore esteem it rather as an extraordinary gift from God; and hope it will be a means to advance his Glory, that those who will not be reclaimed from their ill lives by the ordinary Ministers of the Church, may at least be startled and awakened from their sins, to see this young miraculous preacher, sent to call them to repentance.

We have a Tradition of the famous *Ambrose Merlin*, that he prophesied from his very Infancy: whence some report him not to have been of *humane Race*, but begot by the Phantasm of *Apollo*; but these are but *old wives' Fables*. I cannot say this *prodigious Child* is a *Prophet*; and yet I hear, that several things he hath said, have afterwards come to pass. He came to London the 28th Instant, and is lodged at the Bear Inn in Smithfield, where hundreds have been to see him.

F I N I S.



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